

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

April 2014

PROSPECTUS FOR
GENETICALLY MODIFIED, GLYPHOSATE RESISTANT SOYBEANS and WHEAT
For
2014 and 2015 GROWING SEASONS

FOR 2 PARCELS

ON

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
WILL COUNTY
ILLINOIS

Parcel I: Tract Nos. 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 29, 36, 37, 38, 40, 55, 216, 217

Parcel II: Tract Nos. 28, 50, 60, 62

BID OPENING DATE: April 25, 2014

OPENING TIME: 2:00 P.M.

SUBMIT LUMP SUM SEALED BIDS TO: PRAIRIE SUPERVISOR
MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
30239 SOUTH STATE ROUTE 53
WILMINGTON, IL 60481

LIMITING CONDITIONS

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS WAS TAKEN FROM THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION. THE SOURCES ARE CONSIDERED RELIABLE, BUT NO WARRANTY OF THE ACCURACY THEREOF IS MADE. ALL BIDDERS ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION AS TO THE FACTS ABOUT THE AREAS, ACRES, AND ESTIMATES OF CROP PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES/REVENUES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANYTHING INDICATED IN THIS PROSPECTUS. DUE TO THE UNCERTAINTY OF INCLEMENT WEATHER AND GROUND CONDITIONS, ACCESS TO THESE AREAS FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE TRACTS AVAILABLE FOR BID MAY BE INACCESSIBLE OR UNREACHABLE FOR INSPECTION. THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROSPECTUS WILL BE INCORPORATED AND MADE PART OF THE ACTUAL SPECIAL USE PERMIT.

PROSPECTUS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this prospectus is to solicit bidders interested in the crop production for the cultivation and harvest of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat using the no-till method on 1393 estimated acres for Parcel I and 251 estimated acres for Parcel II during the 2014 and 2015 growing seasons within the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

The following tracts are available for crop production of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat using the no-till method: Parcel I Tract Nos. 12 (one year only), 14, 15, 16, 17 (two years only), 18, 19 (one year only), 29, 36, 37, 38, 40, 55, 216, and 217.

Parcel II Tract Nos. 28, 50, 60, and 62.

BID PROCEDURE

Lump sum sealed bids subject to terms and conditions set forth in this prospectus will be received by the Prairie Supervisor, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, 30239 South State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481 until **2:00 P.M. CDT, April 25, 2014** to cultivate and harvest genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat with the no-till method on all the tracts listed above. (See attached maps.) The bid opening will be open to the public; bidders will be notified of the results. **Each bid for each parcel must be accompanied by a Cashier's Check or Money Order made out to the USDA Forest Service in the amount of one Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).** Checks or Money Orders will be returned to all unsuccessful bidders. The deposit will be applied to the fee of the high bidder. If the high bidder cannot fulfill the terms of the Special Use Permit, the bid deposit will be forfeited and the prospectus reissued. A Bill of Collection and Special Use Permit will be transmitted to the successful bidder to submit payment and sign the Special Use Permit. The fee for the Special

Use permit will be paid in two equal installments. The first installment will be due by May 15, 2014. The second installment will be due by March 1, 2015. After payment is received the Special Use Permit will be approved by the Prairie Supervisor. No ground disturbing activities will be permitted on any of the sites until payment is received and the Special Use Permit is signed and approved by the Prairie Supervisor.

The Forest Service reserves the right to extend the date for receiving bids, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any technical defects.

GENERAL INFORMATION

OWNERSHIP

All facilities and land covered by this prospectus are owned by the United States and administered by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. All bidders should make their own investigation as to the facts about the areas and estimates of crop production capabilities/revenues without reference to anything indicated in this prospectus. Due to the uncertainty of inclement weather and ground conditions, access to these areas for some or all of the tracts available for bid may be inaccessible or unreachable for inspection. Prospective bidders are urged to consult with Dolores Kaitschuck at (815) 423-6370, to discuss permit conditions and acquire other pertinent information.

Any oral statement by any representative of the Forest Service, modifying or changing any condition of this prospectus is an expression of opinion only, and confers no right to the bidder.

The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is approximately two miles north of the Town of Wilmington, Illinois, and twelve miles south of the City of Joliet, Illinois. Illinois State Route 53 provides access to this site.

The tracts being offered are part of many tracts identified within the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie for agricultural activities. Soils and physical features of the tracts being offered indicate that the most efficient use of this land would be crop production. These tracts have been used for these purposes during most of the past twenty years.

AREA DESCRIPTION

Parcel I

This offering includes an estimate of 1,393 acres suitable for crop production of genetically modified glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat described as follows:

Tract No. 12 (fields 1, 2, and 3) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 56 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 35 of Will County, Illinois. It was managed as part of the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant in the past. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for

the production of wheat and soybeans. **This tract will be for one growing season only in 2014. There will be only one crop of soybeans grown on this tract. When the soybeans are harvested in 2014, the leasee shall furnish and broadcast sow a Seeding Mix for pastures consisting of Brome Grass 15 lb/acre; Kentucky Bluegrass 15 lb/acre; Red Clover 5 lb/acre and Ladino Clover 5 lb/acre. Seeding needs to be completed by not later than January 31, 2015**

Tract No. 14 of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 46 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 34 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 15 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 199 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 34 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 16 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 278 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 33 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 17 (field 3) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. This site contains an estimated 40 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 31 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans. **This tract will be for two years only. If this permit is extended, this Tract will not be included.**

Tract No. 18 (fields 3, 4, 5, and 6) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. This site contains an estimated 175 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 33 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 19 (fields 1, 2, and 3) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. This site contains an estimated 90 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 35 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans. **This tract will be for one growing season only in 2014. There will be only one crop of soybeans grown on this tract. When the soybeans are harvested in 2014, the leasee shall furnish and broadcast sow a Seeding Mix for pastures consisting of Brome Grass 15 lb/acre; Kentucky Bluegrass 15 lb/acre; Red Clover 5 lb/acre and Ladino Clover 5 lb/acre. Seeding needs to be completed not later than January 31, 2014**

Tract No. 29 of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 31 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10

East, Section 33 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of alfalfa, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 36 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 33 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 3 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 37 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 112 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 3 and 4 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 38 of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 135 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 34 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 40 (fields 1, 2, and 4) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 44 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 2 and 3 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 55 of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 13 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 18 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 216 of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 50 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 11 East, Section 30 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 217 of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 91 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 9 East, Section 24 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Parcel II

This offering includes an estimate of 251 acres suitable for crop production of genetically modified glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat described as follows:

Tract No. 28 (field 1) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie This site contains an estimated 9 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 9 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 50 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. This site contains an estimated 134 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 10 and 11 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 60 (fields 1 and 6) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 10 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 15 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 62 of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie - This site contains an estimated 98 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 11 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years this site has been used for the production of wheat and soybeans.

OFFERING

The offering involved in this prospectus is exclusive authorization to cultivate and harvest crops of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat on Parcel I of 1,393 estimated acres and Parcel II of 251 estimated acres during the 2014 and 2015 growing seasons using the no-till method on all of the offered parcels to begin on or about May 15, 2014. The offering for cultivation and harvesting will run until December 31, 2015. The high bidder will be awarded this exclusive authorization through the issuance of a Special Use Permit. Application of pesticides is limited to only the approved herbicide identified in the National Environmental Policy decision document for Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. No aerial application is approved. The special use permit authorized to the highest bidder may be extended for another two years at the discretion of the Prairie Supervisor. Parcel I tract numbers 12 and 19 will be for one year only in 2014, and tract 17 will be for two years only 2014 and 2015. These tracts will not be included in any extension.

TYPES OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT

A Special Use Permit for May, 2014 through December 31, 2015 will be issued to the successful bidder. For some tracts the Special Use Permit may, at the discretion of the Prairie Supervisor, be extended for one time only or until December 31, 2017.

PERMIT AWARD

Bids will be judged on the monetary return to the United States only. It is assumed that all bidders will comply with the terms of the Special Use Permit as well as instructions specified in the spill plan for herbicide use such as glyphosate.